

Hi folks!

Last June, I wrote I was “staying at home while everyone else was traveling.” My schedule has changed significantly as I will be traveling to two middle-eastern countries for two weeks beginning November 8. One of our employees is returning to re-start a ministry and asked me to accompany in order to review both some security and organizational issues. I didn’t think I needed to go, particularly since we’re about to begin building our new wing the week of October 5.

Praises

- Plans coming together for trip to Middle -East
- Visas for Tom & wife
- New wing to finally begin building October 5

However, with potential help coming to take over some of my administrative duties and with more desire for me to work in development of our institutes, I said I would go if this person could get me appointments to interview educators in the country. I now have an appointment with the executive director in charge of the country’s education research and development, an assistant professor in a significant university, the director of all the Baptist association schools, and we’re working on an interview in a Muslim university in

a very strict Islamic region of the country. Then, another of our employees in a neighboring country said he could do the same in his country! When one of my supporters said, “I’d like to encourage you to go by giving \$1,200 as seed money,” I sensed it was time to say “OK, Lord, I’m getting the idea you want me to go!”

Requests

- New presidential candidate for The Next Step; pray for Amy.
- For my leadership of the pastoral search committee and Winnie’s leadership of the Women’s Bible Studies at our church
- For \$1,750 in additional donations to fund my upcoming trip.
- Sale of donated house

I am presenting myself before them as doing post-doctoral research to expand upon my dissertation. My dissertation research was the application of a new teaching method called conceptual change teaching strategy that is designed to change people’s misconceptions that are held even subconsciously. My research was the first to apply the strategy to theological teaching. Building upon that work, I want to identify the influence of cultural values and the roles teachers and students assume in formal and non-formal teaching. This information will go a long way toward developing curriculum that is less “western” and would be more adaptable by the teachers whom we intend to raise up to teach others within their own or neighboring

cultures. By visiting these countries, I would have greater credibility on my resume to visit other countries as I increase the knowledge base. It’s one thing to develop a curriculum for us to teach to others; it’s quite another to develop curriculum for teachers within other cultures to teach in another near culture.

Since this trip was not included in the budget, I must raise the \$3,000 needed for the trip. Through the incredible generosity already given, I’m down to \$1,750. Would you pray about this need? If you would like to contribute directly toward this trip, just write a note with “Middle-East” trip according to the “gift” instructions below. ↓

Last month, I wrote about William Stearns coming to Columbia to be interviewed about assuming the presidency of The Next Step. Two days after our time together, he had a brain hemorrhage due to a brain tumor which grew until taking his life on September 11. William was only 60, and leaves behind 5 grown children and two under the age of 5 who were recently adopted by him and his wife Amy. Please pray for Amy. I will continue to look for another person to lead Next Step.

Checks made out to:
Crossover Comm. Int’l
P.O. Box 211755
Columbia, SC 29221
Gifts to Acct. # 2309

Last month, I also asked for prayer for Tom and his wife to receive a renewal to their visas. We found out that they were investigated in this Central Asian country—asking others why they were there, where did they get their money, etc. The answers proved to be satisfactory so they were granted another full year! Praise God!

Thanks, COD! Jim & Winnie